

Developmental Disabilities Program Policy and Procedures Manual		Control # 01.03.003
Volume 1: Program Administration	section 3: DD Program Policies	
	subject: Bathing Safety	

PURPOSE (003.1): The purpose of the Bathing Safety policy is to provide a framework for review, planning, training, and implementation of procedures designed to insure the safety of individuals while bathing.

APPLICABILITY

(003.2) If an individual is receiving services that involve bathing, and that service is funded by the Developmental Disabilities Program, the bathing procedure must be reviewed at least annually by the Individual Planning (IP) team or by an Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) team (for individuals in foster homes). Results of the review will be documented in the meeting plan minutes. The term “bathing” also includes showering and sponge bathing in addition to traditional tub bathing. The term “attended bathing” includes the following levels:

1. The individual is within arms’ length and in sight of the attending person throughout the duration of the bathing; or
2. The attending person is within the bathing /showering room and is able to hear the individual (shower curtain is drawn, privacy screen is used).

RISK FACTORS

(003.3) All risk factors relating to bathing safety are to be considered. They include, but are not limited to: history of seizures, medications adjustments and developmental and physical changes that may impair judgement or mobility. The individual’s right to privacy must be weighed along with safety factors and the level of supervision provided. Procedures must be in place to ensure that the water temperature is maintained at no more than 120°F at the hot water tap in facilities owned by qualified DD providers or as otherwise required.

WRITTEN PLAN

(003.4): Because of the very high risk associated with active seizure disorders and bathing, IP/IFSP teams must consider the need for attended bathing when meeting the health and safety needs of an individual. Attended bathing is required for all individuals living in licensed community homes for persons with developmental disabilities who have a diagnosis of seizure disorder, who have a history of seizure disorders, and who are taking medications to control seizures. Where it is determined by the IP/IFSP team that safety factors need to be addressed, a support objective must be written indicating that a bathing procedure will be developed and implemented to address these factors.

- A. The bathing procedure must clearly state the risk factors being addressed.
- B. The individual’s personal physician and/or occupational or physical therapist may be involved in the development of the bathing procedure.
- C. Staff charged with implementing the bathing safety plan will receive training required to carry out the procedure. Written service objectives are required to insure staff training requirements are met.
- D. The written bathing procedure must be readily accessible to staff who monitor or assist an individual while bathing. “Readily accessible” means that the

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procedure is posted in the bathing area or the procedure is contained in a binder or notebook that the staff take into the bathing area for reference.

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